

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

June 6, 2018

Minutes

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection by Tom Cannon to remember the 74th invasion at Normandy

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Charleen Thompson, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, James Munoz, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, Phil Mowry, Fred Baylor, Dessi Dufresne, Ilse York and Michael Vento

Guests Welcomed: Tina Allsbrook (Clear Caption) Jim Thurman (Potential Board Member), Bob Foreman (Matthews Resident) Mike Kipp (Potential Board Member), Rad Pate (ToM Liason)

Minutes of May, 2018: Minutes were approved as transmitted

Guest Tina Allsbrook spoke to us about ClearCaptions- a phone service for the hearing impaired. If we know of any veterans that can use her service she can help provide phone and captioning service at no cost through a federally funded program.

Old Business:

1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness: Tom passed out business card size reminders of the Veterans breakfast for us to give out to any veterans we meet. Amanda asked us all to arrive at 8:15 am for the breakfast. News release of the breakfast had been given to Maureen to go on town websites. Angelo had the invitation about the breakfast placed in "The Coffee News". Fisk will put together information packets to hand out at breakfast. Our participation in the Labor Day parade is being finalized. We need to order a Banner to use for parade at a cost of \$300.00. We need committee to walk in parade and to man our table for the weekend.

2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration: Larry gave update on this committee. They met on May 29th. The recommendation for the New Hiring Policy has been sent in for review to the town H.R. The committee is putting the finishing touches on the documents outlining why employees should hire veterans. They are in search of new materials to help stock our display in front of the library. The 3 month calendar is being sent to Maureen for the town website. Maureen has had technical difficulties loading it, but she is working on it.

3: Subcommittee 3. Communications Dessi gave us an update on this committee. We have received 6 Purple Heart signs, and we have 5 designated locations set for them. We have also received 2 Purple Heart parking signs . One will be placed beside Town Hall and the other one at Hulsey Purser Park. They will be Purple Heart Veteran Parking Only signs. At the next meeting they will give us an update on the Veteran of the Year award they are planning. The revitalization of the town park with military theme is at the mercy of the town and the budget cycle. We will be updated as the process continues.

4: Subcommittee 4: Executive: Tom gave an update on the Korean/Vietnam War Exhibit. The exhibit was open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day Weekend. We had 115 registered visitors. Phil had a POW MIA table prepared for the exhibit and Jack's neighbor made the wooden figures that were displayed. Some suggestions were made for next year's display. Perhaps some more interactive displays, school tours but keep it appropriate as a Memorial Day event. Plan to work more with the Town's Memorial Day events to make this event more successful.

New Business: June meeting is the time for the Election of the New Officers to preside July 2018 through June 2019. Nominations from the floor were allowed. The nominations for officers were Tom Cannon for Chairman, Phil Mowry for Vice Chairman, Jack Santaniello for Treasurer and Charleen Thompson for Secretary. Those nominated were asked to leave the room for the board's discussion. There

were no objections to the slate, no other nominees. A vote was taken and the slate was approved unanimously.

Two new potential members were introduced. They are Jim Thurman and Mike Kipp. They were unanimously voted in as board members. Mike will be on Subcommittee 1 and Joe will be on Subcommittee 2.

Treasurer's Report: We are waiting on update from our budget request to the Town

Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments: Fisk spoke about his appreciation to having had the opportunity the last 2 years to be chairman. He spoke that in the end we have to ask three questions. What has the Town Board done as a result of and based on our recommendations that reinforce the town's motto of Matthews as a "Military Friendly Community"? What has the Town Board done to specifically help veterans based upon recommendations put forth by the MVAC? And lastly Have we, as an organization that is chartered and dedicated to helping the Town help veterans, Military members and their families established ourselves within the entire Matthews community to the level that the MVAC is recognized as such. Fisk asked us "Have we Moved the Mountain"?

Comments-Town Council Liaison: Rad bid us farewell as he is retiring and will no longer be our Town Liaison. He will be missed.

Open Comments: Janet Perkins let us know she is having her Battle of the Branch's Golf Tournament Sept 20th 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson, Secretary

